



After murdering Iranian and Iraqi leaders

U.S. refuses to leave Iraq and tightens siege on Iran

By Bill Dores

Iraq's parliament and prime minister have asked the U.S. to end its 16-year occupation of their country. The Trump regime, which claims it wants to "end forever wars," is refusing to bring them home. It is instead sending more troops, ships and planes to the region.

On Jan. 5, Iraq's elected parliament passed a resolution calling for U.S. troops to leave. Trump responded by threatening the war-torn country with "sanctions like they've never seen before." He also demanded Iraq reimburse the U.S. military for the costs of the U.S. bases there.

In a Jan. 9 phone call, Iraqi Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi asked U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo to make plans for U.S. troops to leave his country. Pompeo said no.

State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said U.S. troops in Iraq are "a force for good" and would not leave. "At this time, any delegation sent to Iraq would be dedicated to discussing how to best recommit to our strategic partnership — not to discuss troop withdrawal, but our right, appropriate force posture in the Middle East," she said.

Ortagus repeated the Trump regime's pretext for keeping U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria — the fight against ISIS. But on Jan. 3, in a cowardly sneak attack, the U.S. Air Force murdered two leaders of the fight against ISIS and al-Qaida in the region — Gen. Qaseem Soleimani of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Abu Mahdi Muhandis, deputy chief of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU).

In reality, the U.S., Israel and Saudi Arabia have covertly armed and funded ISIS, al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations in Syria and in Iraq. The Syrian Army, Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units, Iranian Revolutionary Guards, the Lebanese Resistance and Russia have borne the brunt of the fight against them. While U.S. troops occupy Syria's oil fields, the Trump regime has openly authorized large arms shipments to al-Qaida forces holding the Syrian city of Idlib.

Soleimani was on peace mission

The two commanders were assassinated on Iraqi soil at Donald Trump's orders. Gen. Soleimani had landed in Iraq to meet Prime Minister Mahdi.

It was a peace mission. The Iraqi prime minister was trying to reduce tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia. That is something the Trump oil-money regime does not want to see happen.

The assassination of two leaders of countries with which the U.S. isn't at war is a crime under international and U.S. law. It is "a crime against peace," the highest level of war crime.

It wasn't the Pentagon's only war crime that day. U.S. forces also tried but failed to assassinate IRGC officer Abdul Reza Shahlai in Yemen.

Shahlai was advising Yemeni forces resisting the brutal U.S.-backed Saudi siege war that has killed 85,000 Yemeni children and threatens millions with starvation. In April, Trump vetoed a congressional resolution limiting U.S. involvement in the Yemen war.

Three days earlier, the U.S. Air Force bombed Iraqi soldiers deployed to fight ISIS, killing 25. In response, Iraqi protesters stormed the huge U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. The Soleimani-Muhandis assassinations prompted the Iraqi government to call for U.S. withdrawal.

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¡ALTO A LA GUERRA CONTRA IRÁN! 8

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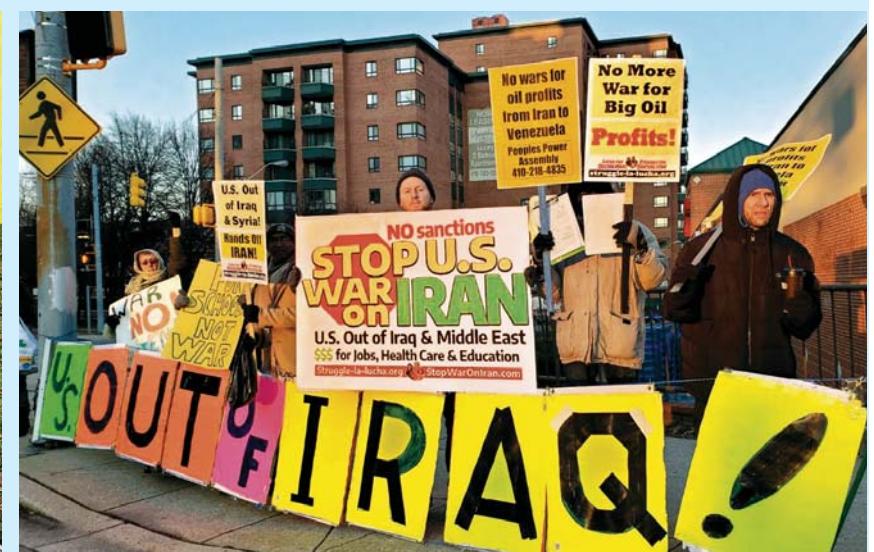
A call to action on Dr. King Day

The people of Baltimore are marching against war and racism on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, Jan. 18-20. The march will start in Baltimore and go to Washington, D.C.

In 1967 on April 4, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. passionately spoke out against the Vietnam war. He exclaimed that the bombs in Vietnam also exploded at home in our decaying cities.

Now is the time to reclaim and honor Dr. King by resisting war and racism.

For more information: Facebook tinyurl.com/u9djgbc



SLL PHOTOS: SHARON BLACK

Protests coast to coast demand: STOP WAR ON IRAN! U.S. OUT OF IRAQ!

By Greg Butterfield

The vicious assassination by-drone of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces deputy leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis on Jan. 3 was denounced by Iran, Iraq and people worldwide as an act of war. The murders, ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump, came two days after hundreds of Iraqi protesters besieged the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad in response to a Dec. 29 Pentagon missile attack on Iraqi Hezbollah members and civilians.

Trump and the Big Oil/fracking interests that dominate his administration have been gunning for war with Iran since Day One, first of all by pulling the U.S. out of the so-called Iran nuclear deal, an international agree-

ment that Tehran hoped could shake off U.S.-imposed sanctions. Iran has provided major military, economic and political assistance to Syria in its struggle against U.S.-backed terrorists. Last year, Trump unleashed the Turkish dictatorship on eastern Syria while claiming control of Syria's oil fields on behalf of U.S. monopolies' profits.

In solidarity with the righteous protest at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, the Answer Coalition, Code Pink Women for Peace and Popular Resistance called for a day of action on Saturday, Jan. 4. It was fortunate that they did, as it gave organizers across the country and the world an anchor for emergency actions in cities large and small when the U.S. escalated its undeclared war on Iran with the assassinations.

Dozens of national and local organizations, including Struggle-La Lucha newspaper and the Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido, joined in the emergency mobilization, and the number of cities holding actions on the weekend of Jan. 4-5 swelled to over 80. The days of action took on an international scope as well, with anti-war protests held from fire-ravaged Australia to snowy Canada.

At least a thousand people came out to fog-shrouded Times Square in **New York City** to loudly chant, "No justice! No peace! U.S. out of the Middle East!" and marched down Broadway to the Herald Square shopping district.

Speaking for Struggle-La Lucha, Bill Dores called to "bring all U.S. troops home now." He

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International Human Rights Day actions condemn U.S. crimes

By Bayani

On Dec. 4, 1950, the United Nations General Assembly formally established International Human Rights Day. This day was to be observed every year on Dec. 10 in honor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on Dec. 10, 1948.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights seeks to guarantee some basic individual protections — freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of thought, religion and association, and the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Interestingly, one article of the declaration guarantees “the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services.”

The great irony is that despite being one of the signers of this declaration, the United States has continuously violated this article, not only by its actions all over the world, but at home as well.

So on this past International Human Rights Day, people all over the world organized actions to condemn the U.S. as a violator of human rights.

Washington, D.C.

In Washington, D.C., a coalition of organizations sponsored a demonstration on Dec. 7 called “People and Planet over Profit” to raise this call. The coalition gathered about 70 people to rally in front of Union Station and condemned the U.S.’s blatant violations of human rights.

Among the organizations supporting the action were the Malaya Movement, the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly (PPA), Pan-African Community Action, the Communications Workers of America (CWA), the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), DMV Bolivia Solidarity, D.C.’s International Womxn’s Alliance, Anak-bayan D.C., and BAYAN USA.

Ameenah Salaam of CWA, which has built strong connections with labor unions in the Dominican Republic and the Philippines, spoke about building international workers’ power: “Instead of letting corporations divide and conquer, we’ve adopted an international perspective on what it means to fight corporate power and stop the race to the bottom.”

Salaam spoke about the Filipino call center workers who refused to scab during the Verizon strikes in 2016 and how that built solidarity between workers there and in the U.S. She also reported that the Philippines is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a union activist, and demanded that not one more dollar be sent to the Duterte administration until human rights violations are investigated.

Speakers also raised that human rights can be used as a pretext to invade and intervene in countries

Los Angeles



SLL PHOTO

that are in the crosshairs of imperialism. Steven Ceci, representing the PPA in Baltimore, said: “We need to be aware that human rights can be a false flag, because there’s such a thing as ‘humanitarian imperialism.’... So when we talk about human rights, we need to be very clear about what type of human rights.”

Los Angeles

On Dec. 10, some 200 people and over 29 organizations in Los Angeles County held a series of rallies and marches to several consulate offices condemning Donald Trump, U.S. wars and interventions by both the Democratic and Republican parties, and Washington’s racist targeting of migrants and their children.

Nikole Cababa, national secretary general of BAYAN USA and one of the key organizers of the event, said: “We’re concerned about the growing displacement of families who face the wrath of a Trump administration that only dehumanizes and scapegoats them for a crisis the U.S. has a hand in. While Trump pours billions into its destructive wars, families in the U.S. suffer.”



At the El Salvadoran and Ethiopian consulates, Walter Ruiz “Graywolf,” director of the American Indian Movement Southern California (AIM SoCal), reminded everyone about the people whose stolen land they were standing on: Indigenous people who were displaced and massacred for U.S. economic interests.

He noted that the massacres continue with the recent death of 16-year-old Guatemalan migrant Carlos Vásquez: “I don’t want to change the person in charge, I want to change the system that allows these people to be in charge. We live in economic slavery.”

Jasmin Tobar of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) then condemned the newly elected Salvadoran president, Nayib Bukele, for attacking the progressive movement there with increased militarization of the region.

At the Ethiopian Consulate, Tadios Belay of the International Migrants Alliance exposed the massive displacement of African migrants and its root cause, U.S. foreign policy. “The U.S. government is spending billions of dollars in Africa funding civil wars... The U.S. has over 50 military bases in Africa currently,” said Belay. “We must end U.S. militarism at home and abroad.”

The final consulate visited was that of Bolivia. Juan Baldelomar, a Bolivian activist from the city of Cochabamba, spoke about the U.S. government’s role in the Bolivian revolution and the importance of international solidarity.

Washington, D.C.

PHOTOS: TEKO ALEJO



condemned the U.S.-supported coup in Bolivia and said of the legitimate president, Evo Morales: “He is a socialist, and he was able to get millions out of poverty. We were able to reduce poverty from a horrible 38 percent to 16 percent. He built hundreds of schools, hospitals, sports arenas and miles of road to help families like mine in Bolivia.”

At the Honduran and Filipino consulates, a speaker from the Socialist Unity Party and others exposed the various assaults by U.S. imperialism on these countries and urged a continuation of the type of unity it took to bring the organizations together for this very successful event in defense of human rights all over the world.

Co-sponsors of the event included AIM SoCal, BAYAN USA, the Border Angels, CISPES-LA, Guatemala LA Mujeres Resistiendo, the Human Rights Alliance for Child Refugees & Families, the International Migrants Alliance, Me Too Survivors’ March International, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, Occupy ICE LA, PUSO SoCal, Struggle-La Lucha newspaper, the Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido and Unión del Barrio.

Solidarity with Cuba

On the same day as the Los Angeles action, a multiplatform “anti-imperialist tide” refuted the U.S. slanders against the blockaded island of Cuba.

A Twitter storm with hashtags #UnblockCuba, #NoMasBloqueo and #DDHHcuba, supported by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People and video posts from Cubaninformacion.tv, uplifted Cuba’s real advances in fundamental human rights — not just in Cuba, where literacy, health care and homes are a human right, but through its international leadership and solidarity.

As Gail Walker, executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), tweeted: “I’m tired of the lies about #Cuba. The truth is Cuba is a world leader in health, education and fighting climate change. Let’s honor Human Rights Day by telling the truth about Cuba.”

John Parker and Cheryl LaBash contributed to this report.

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U.S. tech giants back India's Hindu nationalist prime minister

By Lallan Schoenstein

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are weaponizing India's digital communications industry with the goal of turning India into a religious Hindu state.

The giant U.S. internet corporations have supported and even funded the Modi campaign with millions of dollars.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has been Modi's most ardent fan. "Facebook held India up as a model for how governments could use the social network," the New York Times reported on April 1, 2019.

Zuckerberg has been backing Modi since 2011. From the start, Modi's BJP used the internet to incite violence against the oppressed Muslim minority.

Modi's use of misinformation to manipulate Indian elections has been widely reported. In a sinister twist, the BJP is currently promoting legislation that would give the government access to personal information without consent.

Modi's control of India's social media is subverting potential resources needed to overcome underdevelopment caused by colonialism. The right-wing Hindu nationalist is also shredding India's hopes for economic sovereignty by throwing the economy wide open to plunder.

His "Digital India" and "Make in India" campaigns are open invitations to the U.S. tech giants to exploit one of the world's largest online markets, currently estimated to be at from 700 to 800 million people with a potential to be well over a billion people.

Modi has traveled to California more than once to meet with top tech leaders, including Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google; Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft; Tim Cook, CEO of Apple; Shantanu Narayen, CEO of Adobe Systems; Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook; Intel's Brian Krzanich; and Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla Motor. Their aspirations for the opportunities this afforded them was displayed by open wallets and unquestioning support.

Facebook

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg even had his mom and dad in the front row as he hosted India's prime minister at the social network's new campus in Menlo Park, Calif., according to "India Today," Sept. 28, 2015.

Before and after he won the May 2014 election in India, Facebook helped Modi develop his online presence to ensure that he had more "followers" on the social media platform than any other political leader on the planet, according to a

study titled "World Leaders on Facebook" released by publisher Burson Cohn & Wolfe, May 2018. The huge, well-organized, online following helped win the election.

On May 12, 2016, the Guardian reported that the person who ran Modi's social media operation said that Facebook was extraordinarily responsive to requests from the Modi campaign, and recalled that Ankhi Das, Facebook's head of public policy in India, "never said no" to any information the campaign wanted.

Ankhi Das' presence seemed to open any door, a Facebook executive said. "We used to joke that it was like she was Modi's granddaughter."

After Modi's first visit to Silicon Valley, Zuckerberg returned to Delhi, where he met with many of India's most prominent online entrepreneurs, who assembled for a closed-door meeting.

They wanted to talk about who had access to Facebook. "Everybody started saying, 'Well, why are you controlling who gets on this?'" recalled Vijay Shekhar Sharma, the proprietor of the mobile payments firm Paytm.

When it was Sharma's turn to speak, he did not hide his feelings. "I said, 'Zuck, what are you talking about?' In my view, it's like the British coming in and saying, 'While everything's OK, we'll come in and help you with your tax collection – and this is the percentage we'll take.' It's incredible." (The Guardian, May 12, 2016)

An infamous history of anti-Muslim violence

Narendra Modi began his political career in the state of Gujarat as a member of India's fascist paramilitary Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

An early leader of the RSS, M.S. Golwalkar, wrote a book in 1939 praising Hitler and saying Nazi Germany's "purity" by "purging the country of Semitic races" was "a good lesson for us in Hindustan to learn and profit by." (The Times of India, Sept. 30, 2004)

Modi became active in RSS's political branch, the BJP, in 1987, when the party had only two seats in Parliament.

Looking for an inflammatory issue to build their ranks, the BJP/RSS initiated a campaign in 1990 against a mosque called Babri Masjid, built in 1528, in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.

The BJP promoted a legend that the god Ram — an avatar of Vishnu, often depicted with blue skin — had been born there and that a Hindu temple had once been on the site.

They called for the mosque to be destroyed and for a Hindu temple to take its place. They conducted a two-month rampage, called the Ram Rath Yatra, across India, traveling aboard a jeep refitted to look like a chariot and giving speeches to incite Hindu nationalism. Hundreds of Muslims were killed.

On Dec. 6, 1992, RSS partisans swarmed Babri Masjid and razed the mosque with axes and hammers.

The destruction of the mosque incited communal attacks across the country, with the biggest and blood-



250 million workers on strike against Modi.

iest of them in Mumbai. Thousands of Muslims were slaughtered.

During the 2014 election, BJP's primary digital tool was Facebook. Since then, smartphone use in India has exploded and Facebook's WhatsApp became their preferred campaign platform. It was often used for distributing fake news that attacked political opponents and inflamed religious violence.

Right-wing Hindu groups have used WhatsApp to spread grisly faked videos of attacks on Hindu women by Muslim mobs.

Aria Thaker reported on Quartz India, "India's raging fake news menace has reportedly led to dozens of mob-lynchings over the past few years." This fake news can be spread unknowingly.

One WhatsApp message exhorted Hindus to vote for the BJP because "this is not just an election. This is a war of faiths." (New York Times, May 14, 2018)

Life for journalists critical of the BJP and Modi is dangerous. Several have been killed.

"On the night of Sept. 5, a Honda motorcycle pulled in front of the Bengaluru home of Gauri Lankesh, an outspoken critic of Modi who had been targeted by patriotic trolls on Facebook and other social media. As the Indian journalist was unlocking her gate, three bullets struck her in the head and chest, killing her. No arrests have been made.

"The final editorial that Lankesh had written for her newspaper was titled 'In the Age of False News.' In it, she lamented how misinformation and propaganda on social media were poisoning the political environment." (Bloomberg, Dec. 21, 2017)

Shutting off the internet to stifle protest

In August, Modi's government announced that it was suspending Article 370 of the Constitution, which grants autonomy to Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

As masses of people rose in protest, Modi flooded Kashmir with troops and detained hundreds of prominent Muslims. To crush all resistance, cell-phone and internet service was cut off.

Starting in November, the BJP's National Register of Citizens (NRC) began to be enforced in the state of Assam.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi hugs Facebook CEO, Mark Zuckerberg at FB headquarters in California, Sept. 28, 2015.

On Dec. 11, supplementary legislation — the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) — was passed in India's Parliament. CAB changes the Constitution, altering the basic principles of universality of citizenship, which was obtained irrespective of race, sex, religion or place of birth. Religion will now be a key determinant for obtaining Indian citizenship.

CAB and NCR leave Muslims stateless

Millions of Muslims, especially poor families living in rural areas, are unable to provide the documents required by NRC and CAB. Hundreds have already been sent to detention (concentration) camps or forced out of the country.

When massive protests erupted against CAB, the Indian government sent in troops and shut down the internet in the states of Assam, Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh. They were not able to silence the students whose rebellion has sparked protests in all the Indian campuses and cities.

The Indian government, which controls the world's second largest internet market, with more than 700 million connected users, continues to shut down the internet as a way to prevent people from staying in touch with one another, and from access to news and information.

Access Now, a digital rights group, reported earlier this year that India alone had about 134 of 196 documented shutdowns throughout the world in 2018.

Internet spying

An Indian reporter, Manish Singh, said on Dec. 10 that the Indian government has proposed new rules that would require technology companies to get consent from people before collecting and processing their personal data.

The rules, dubbed "Personal Data Protection Bill 2019," imply that they will protect personal data.

According to Singh, leaked copies of the bill showed that it does not offer personal protection.

In fact, the bill would "exempt any agency of the BJP government from application of the act in the interest of ... the security of the state and public order." This means that they would have the power to collect anyone's data without consent. □

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U.S. refuses to leave Iraq, tightens siege on Iran

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Sanctions are siege warfare

At a Jan. 8 press conference, Trump appeared to back down from a direct military attack on Iran. For now. However, he made clear that the U.S. siege against the Iranian people will intensify. That includes new economic sanctions against the oil-rich country, hitting its mining, construction, manufacturing and textile sectors.

Sanctions are siege warfare. Tens of thousands of Iranians have already died from U.S.-imposed sanctions, which seriously hurt the country's health care system.

Reflecting broad anti-war sentiment in the U.S., the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives passed a resolution restricting Trump's war-making powers. It will likely die in the Republican-controlled Senate. Trump had stated that his tweets constituted legal notification for Congress of U.S. military action.

Leading Democrats had castigated Trump last year when he pretended to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria. On Dec. 12, 188 Democrats joined the GOP in voting for Trump's \$788 billion war budget.

Millions Honor Soleimani

Gen. Soleimani's three-day funeral, held in several cities, was one of the largest in history. Millions turned out to honor him, not only

in Iran, but in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. Christian churches held masses in his honor. Leaders of Iran's Jewish community visited Soleimani's family.

Soleimani is a hero across the region for organizing resistance to the U.S.-Israel-Saudi axis and its wars in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen. In a rare interview on Oct. 19, Soleimani revealed he had served in Lebanon during the 2006 Israeli invasion.

Before Gen. Soleimani was laid to rest, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps fired a farewell salute of rockets at two U.S. military occupation bases in Iraq. Yemeni Resistance forces hit a U.S.-Saudi base the same day.

Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei described the rocket attack, which destroyed planes and buildings, as "a slap in the face" to U.S. imperialism. "What is important about confrontation is that the military action as such is not sufficient," Ayatollah Khamenei continued. "What is important is that the seditious American presence in the region must end."

Airline passengers' blood on Trump regime's hands

Hours after the rockets hit U.S. bases, an Iranian surface-to-air missile struck Ukrainian Airlines Flight 752, which had just taken off from Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport. All 176 passengers and crew, Iranians, Ukrainians



NEW YORK CITY, JAN. 4.

SLL PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

and Canadians, died.

Iranian air defenses were on high alert after repeated threats from Washington. On Jan. 5, Trump tweeted, "We have targeted 52 Iranian sites ... some at a very high level & important to Iran & the Iranian culture, and those targets, and Iran itself, WILL BE HIT VERY FAST AND VERY HARD."

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham threatened an attack on Iran's oil facilities.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Iranian military commanders have taken responsibility for the tragedy. The officer who ordered the shootdown and others will be prosecuted.

This is a very different attitude than that of the U.S. government. On July 3, 1988, the U.S. guided missile cruiser Vincennes shot down Iran Air Flight 655 off the coast of Iran. All 290 aboard died.

Capt. William Rogers III, who ordered the massacre, suffered no consequence. President George H.W. Bush said, "I will never apologize for the United States — I don't care what the facts are. ... I'm not an apologize-for-America kind of guy."

Trump and the U.S. military deliberately created the state of war in which this tragedy happened. The blood is on their hands. The 176 deaths must number among the millions of casualties caused by Washington's wars in the region. We cannot allow this tragedy to be a pretext for further attacks on Iran.

The U.S. killing spree continues

Meanwhile, on Jan. 9, a U.S. drone strike in Afghanistan killed 60 civilians. A day earlier, an air strike, likely by Israel's U.S.-armed Air Force, murdered eight Iraqi soldiers near the Syrian border.

Trump's Jan. 8 press conference was filled with lies and threats. He opened by saying, "Iran will not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon."

The U.S. has 4,018 nuclear weapons. Trump has announced plans to build more. The U.S.-armed and U.S.-funded Israeli settler state has a "secret" stash of nuclear weapons, perhaps as many as 400.

Iran has long pledged not to develop the bomb. In May 2018, the U.S. pulled out of the Joint Comprehensive Action Plan that the Obama administration had signed with Iran, Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia. The JCPOA limits Iran's production of enriched uranium, even for peaceful purposes. On Jan. 5, after the Soleimani assassination, Iran withdrew from the agreement.

Trillions for war, nothing for Puerto Rico, the disabled, the hungry or veterans

"The American military has been completely rebuilt under my administration, at a cost of \$2.5 trillion," Trump bragged. "U.S. Armed Forces are stronger than ever before. Our missiles are big, powerful, accurate, lethal, and fast. Under construction

are many hypersonic missiles," he went on. Trump also called for expanding NATO — the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — into the "Middle East."

Meanwhile, the White House refuses to release \$18 billion in disaster relief that Congress appropriated for Puerto Rico. Two-thirds of Puerto Rico's 3.2 million people remain without power after an earthquake on Jan. 7. Tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans remain homeless. While the U.S. spends billions to occupy Iraq, arm racist Israel and surround Iran, the Trump regime is cutting food stamps, Social Security disability benefits and even veterans' benefits.

Trump also repeated the lie that the Obama administration "gave" Iran \$1.8 billion to sign the JCPOA. That money was Iran's own, held by the U.S. for nearly 40 years. Stolen from the Iranian people, it was stashed by the U.S. puppet shah in Wall Street banks before the 1979 Revolution. Some of it had been paid by the Shah for U.S. arms shipments that the Islamic Republic canceled.

The Shah of Iran was restored to Iran's throne in 1953 after a CIA-orchestrated coup overthrew popularly elected Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh. During the next 25 years, his tyrannical regime became Chase Manhattan Bank's largest depositor and the best overseas paying customer of the U.S. military-industrial complex. When the 1979 Revolution chased the shah off his throne, the Carter regime in Washington froze Iran's money.

No more blood for monopoly profits

U.S. wars and sanctions have wrought havoc and destruction from Afghanistan to Yemen, from Iraq and Syria to Palestine and Libya. They are a desperate and futile attempt to control and restrict the world energy supply in the interests of U.S. banks and corporations, to keep the wealth of the world flowing into their coffers and maintain their position in the world economy.

The Trump regime in particular is tied to the U.S. fracking industry. Mike Pompeo was known as "the Congressman from Koch." The U.S. invasion of Iraq created an energy price bubble that gave birth to the U.S. fracking industry. That bubble has collapsed, and the fracking industry is in crisis. So are the banks that finance it. The oil-soaked gang in Washington no doubt dreams that a new war could bail them out.

Endless war is also a pretext to plunder working-class and oppressed people here to support a bloated, parasitic military-industrial complex.

The people of Iraq, Iran, Syria and the entire region have made it clear that they do not want U.S. troops on their land or U.S. ships in their waters. They are demanding that the U.S. leave. We need to build a mass people's movement here to support their just and righteous demand.

Stop the U.S. war against Iran! Bring all the troops home now!

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public offering of Saudi ARAMCO, the world's biggest oil company, and U.S.-Israeli plans to market stolen Palestinian gas in Europe. Trillions of dollars in profits and investments are at stake.

The U.S. wars against Iraq, Libya and Syria brought huge profits to Corporate America, especially energy firms. They made possible the fracking boom, into which major banks and corporations poured hundreds of billions of dollars. But it was a bubble, and that bubble has collapsed. The Trump regime is betting that a major war can bring it back.

War on Iran is war on the working class here

War with Iran may further enrich bankers and billionaires, but it will only bring disaster to working-class and oppressed communities here. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "The bombs that fall in Vietnam explode here." The same is true of the bombs and missiles the U.S. drops on West Asia and North Africa.

The \$758 billion military budget comes at the expense of our food stamps, our schools, hospitals, housing, libraries and transit systems. Why can't we have free medical care and college like so many other countries? Where is the money to provide clean drinking water to Flint, Newark and other U.S. cities? Where is the money to repair hurricane damage in Puerto Rico?

We will also pay the cost of this war at the gas pump and in the cost of heating oil this winter.

The war is also meant to save and strengthen the fracking industry, which is poisoning Native and rural communities across the U.S. and is a major cause of cancer. It is also a major source of climate-changing methane.

Monopoly media rally around war

The corporate media have roared Trump for impairing U.S. intervention in Ukraine. But they are gloating over the Trump regime's completely illegal targeted assassinations.

Some Democrat politicians have offered milquetoast criticism of this dangerous escalation. Nancy Pelosi is concerned that Trump went around Congress. But will they act now to stop this war? Will they impeach Trump for crimes against peace and violating the War Powers Act? Will they get all U.S. troops, ships, planes and military assets out of the region now?

The people must intervene

We cannot rely on bourgeois politicians. We need urgent mass action in the streets and in the workplace to stop this war!

Hands off Iran! U.S. out of West Asia and North Africa! No more wars for oil monopoly profits! Bring all U.S. troops, ships and planes home now! End sanctions now! End all aid to the racist state of Israel! Money for schools, health care and housing, not the Pentagon and the CIA!

Lenin: How to oppose an unjust war

By Greg Butterfield

The Leninist view of how to fight against imperialist war remains one of the most controversial and defining characteristics of the communist movement, because it means standing up to the capitalist class at the moment its fangs are bared.

Why do we think it's important to study what Russian revolutionary V.I. Lenin wrote and did during World War I, over 100 years ago?

There are two good reasons. First, Lenin's Marxist analysis of war shows how capitalism in its highest stage, imperialism, has an insatiable thirst for new markets and bigger profits that drives it to war. That hasn't changed.

And second, Lenin successfully used this working-class understanding of war to help bring about the socialist revolution in Russia.

In the pamphlet "Socialism and War," Lenin called the war that had just broken out in Europe "a war between the biggest slaveholders for the maintenance and consolidation of slavery."

Differentiating the communist position from the pacifists, who condemn all wars equally, Lenin said,

"We understand that wars cannot be abolished until classes are abolished and socialism is created."

He defined as just wars "civil wars, i.e., wars waged by an oppressed class against the oppressor class," and wars of national liberation by oppressed countries.

"If tomorrow, Morocco were to declare war on France, India on England, Persia or China on [World War I era, pre-revolutionary] Russia, and so forth," he wrote, "those would be 'just,' 'defensive' wars, irrespective of who attacked first; and every socialist would sympathize with the victory of the oppressed, dependent, unequal states against the oppressing, slave-owning, predatory 'Great' Powers."

Communists "of the oppressor countries should recognize and champion the oppressed nation's right to self-determination," Lenin wrote. "The socialist of a ruling country who does not stand for that right is a chauvinist."

Revolutionary defeatism

"The defeat of one's own capitalist government is the lesser evil in the struggle against the war," he wrote. "A revolutionary class cannot but

wish for the defeat of its government in a reactionary war, and cannot fail to see that the latter's military reverses must facilitate its overthrow."

Lenin's thoroughly internationalist perspective is called revolutionary defeatism.

Instead of using the war as an excuse to pull back from the class struggle, Lenin and his co-thinkers argued that it was exactly the time to step up the struggle against capitalism.

It would be a hard road, especially during the first wave of patriotic propaganda. But as the war dragged on and the death and suffering mounted, more workers would turn against the government and capitalism, he argued.

This is the origin of the famous communist slogan, "Turn the imperialist war into civil war."

Some people misunderstand what Lenin meant by this. They think it means you have to show up at the very first demonstration against the war with signs reading "Turn the imperialist war into civil war."

In fact, Lenin argues in his pamphlet that communists should give strong support to all manifestations for peace. This is often the first step

by the workers, youths and others toward anti-war consciousness.

All five Bolshevik deputies in the Duma, or parliament, took a strong anti-war stand, and the Czar exiled them to hard labor in Siberia. Factory workers passed anti-war resolutions. Strikes and demonstrations were organized. Agitation was conducted in the army, and fraternization with enemy troops was encouraged.

Because of their correct analysis of the war and their determination to continue and deepen the class struggle, the Bolsheviks were ready when mass anger at the war boiled over. In February 1917, the Russian people rose up and overthrew the Czar. Several months later, after a new pro-capitalist government showed it would continue the war, Lenin and the Bolsheviks led a successful workers' and peasants' revolution for socialism under the banner of "Peace, Land, Bread."

The new Soviet government's first act was to call on all countries to end the World War and renounce all annexations and occupations. It guaranteed the right of self-determination for all the peoples and nations oppressed by Russian capitalism. ■



SLL PHOTO: JEFFERSON AZEVEDO



SLL PHOTO: CARL MUHAMMAD



SLL PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

Protests demand: STOP WAR ON IRAN!

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talked about Gen. Soleimani's role in leading the regional fight against ISIS and other ultraright, U.S.-linked forces that have ravaged Syria and other countries. Other speakers represented the Answer Coalition, the International Action Center, The People's Forum, Refuse Fascism, New York Boricua Resistance, BAYAN USA and the International League of Peoples' Struggle.

The weather was quite a contrast in **Los Angeles**, but there, too, a thousand people took to the streets to denounce Trump's provocation and U.S. war, sanctions and occupation.

"We find it really important for us to show solidarity for brothers and sisters in Iran and Iraq fighting for their sovereignty," said Viva Vargas of BAYAN Southern California. "We see the U.S. war machine also waging war in the Philippines. They have sent over \$193 million U.S. tax dollars to fund the killings, to fund the heightened oppression of all our progressive forces, the drones and bombs that cause the displacement of various Indigenous communities."

Money for food, not war

"The people are facing major cuts to food stamps and disability benefits," declared Lee Patterson of the **Baltimore** Peoples Power Assembly. "In April, Trump plans to drop 700,000 people from the SNAP food program and millions more will have

their benefits reduced. Here in Baltimore city, over 22 percent of people already go to bed facing hunger.

"But who's not facing cuts? The Pentagon, that's who!" Patterson said. "Both the Republicans and Democrats in Congress voted to give the war machine a \$130-billion increase this year to wage more racist wars and spread more pollution with its 800 bases around the world."

Dozens of protesters lined a major thoroughfare in downtown Baltimore. They covered a whole block, holding signs and banners in protest of the Trump regime's latest acts of war targeting Iran, Iraq and Syria. "No bombs! No war! We need health care for the poor!" they chanted.

Among the groups participating were the Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido, Baltimore Peace Action, Youth Against War & Racism, Women in Black and the Communist Party USA-Baltimore.

Winter chill didn't stop an impressive turnout against war in **Minneapolis**. As Meredith Aby-Keirstead of the Anti-War Committee told Struggle-La Lucha, "We had over 700 people come out to say no to continued war in Iraq and a new war in Iran. Some people came from as far away as North Dakota."

"It was impressive to see so many people fired up to protest when the mainstream media have been beating the drums of war for days,

assuring all of us that this was a legitimate attack and not an assassination," she added.

In **San Diego**, a spontaneous march followed a rally that featured speakers from Anakbayan San Diego, Unión del Barrio, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, the Democratic Socialists of America and the Peace & Freedom Party. "We marched up several blocks and onto the I-5 Freeway overpass, where we hung the lead banner over a railing, making it visible to passing motorists," said Carl Muhammad of the Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido. "We received a lot of support from the motorists passing below."

A demonstration in **Detroit**'s Campus Martius Park, organized by the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice (MECAWI), swelled to hundreds before marching. Representatives of Al Awda, the Palestine Right of Return Coalition, traveled from Cleveland to attend. Other speakers represented Geopolitics Alert and the Communist Workers League.

Palestinian American Congressperson Rashida Tlaib also spoke, condemning Trump's act of war in violation of the War Powers Act. "Congress should have been consulted," Tlaib said. "More importantly, we want to emphasize, there are more people out here that want peace, that do not support war."

New faces join the struggle

Everywhere organizers and police alike were surprised at the strong turnout after many years of small anti-war actions. Activists noted many new faces, especially young people, who came out to their first protests to say "No war on Iran."

In **St. Louis**, 150 protesters marched through downtown and held a "Rally Against War With Iran" at the Thomas F. Eagleton Federal Courthouse. Local media reported that "Anti-war protesters swarmed downtown **Iowa City**" at an event organized by Veterans for Peace. Speakers exposed the fact that the U.S. has already spent tens of billions of dollars on "endless wars" in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Anti-war protesters clashed with right-wing goons in **Pittsburgh** and **Boise**. One hundred demonstrators in **Atlanta** chanted, "Trump says more war! We say no more!" declaring that the government needs to focus on helping people struggle against homelessness and exorbitant hospital bills, not more war in the Middle East.

Hadi Jawad, executive director of the **Dallas** Peace and Justice Center, reminded a local protest there that "we opposed the Iraq War back in 2003. We opposed the war in the early '90s during Iraq One. We also opposed the bombing of Iraq in the 1980s. This is the freaking fifth decade—the fifth decade—of bombing the people of Iraq. Not only did we destroy Iraq, but

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The U.S. road to war on China

By Gary Wilson

The imperialist media reports all read the same, like they were written on the same computer. The Dec. 4 CNN report began: "The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill Dec. 3 demanding a tougher response from the Trump administration over reports of mass detention centers run by the Chinese government in Xinjiang."

CNN continues: "The Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act, which still needs to gain approval from the U.S. Senate, calls for concrete measures to be taken against Beijing over allegations that up to two million Muslim-majority Uyghurs have been detained in 're-education' camps in the far western region."

It's the kind of report and action by Congress that's done to whip up a war fervor.

There's a long history of this kind of propaganda going back to the beginnings of imperialist warfare.

Lenin wrote about imperialist war in his popular outline, "Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism," which was a polemic against those socialists who supported "their own government's" war efforts in World War I.

Lenin's main point was that all the big monopoly capitalist governments were fighting for predatory, expansionist and colonial goals. He showed that capitalism had emerged as a world system that was doomed to be involved in war after war as the imperialists redivide the planet for exploitative purposes.

At the time of World War I, the English and French governments whipped up war propaganda claiming a German "Rape of Belgium" was taking place.

The English and French governments and their media accused German troops of the public mass rape of Belgian girls in Liege. The classic image of the Allied propaganda against Germany was a dead Belgian baby impaled on a bayonet. German troops, eight in number, were accused of bayoneting a 2-year-old Belgian baby. The descriptions of atrocities continued and became ever more gruesome. A Belgian com-



Adrian Zenz of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, an anti-China propagandist, appeared on Democracy Now!

mission of inquiry in 1922, however, failed to find any evidence whatsoever for any of these alleged atrocities.

Such false propaganda has been used for launching almost every war in the imperialist stage of capitalism — not just inter-imperialist wars, but also wars on the oppressed as well as the socialist countries, including the Gulf of Tonkin Incident in 1964, used to launch a massive war on Vietnam. In the 2003 documentary "The Fog of War," former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara admitted that the so-called Gulf of Tonkin attack never happened.

And for the Iraq War there were the "weapons of mass destruction" that never existed, promoted for the purpose of launching the war by politicians from then-President George W. Bush to then-Sens. Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton. The biggest source for this war propaganda at the time was the New York Times and its top reporter in the region, Judith Miller.

The New York Times has not stopped being a source for war propaganda and has played a key role in promoting false information about China.

Congressional hypocrisy

The Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act passed by the House of Representatives is presented in the media as a concern for the plight of Muslims. The reports do not question that narrative, yet it is a Congress that has practically declared war on Muslims. And, of course, President Donald Trump has instituted a Muslim ban, branded Islam as extremism and a vicious cancer that has to be excised,

and increased the use of drones by five-fold over the already prolific Obama administration. He also dropped the "mother of all bombs" — the most powerful non-nuclear weapon in the U.S. arsenal — on Afghanistan.

If Congress wanted to act against the repression of Muslim peoples, why have they not said anything about the fascist-like repression and military occupation of Kashmir by the Narendra Modi government of India?

Like the reports that alleged weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the reports on the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China are based on propaganda with a political agenda.

"Media outlets falsely claimed the U.N. reported China is holding a million Uyghurs in camps. The claim is based on unsourced allegations by an American commission member, U.S.-funded outfits, and a shadowy government-funded opposition group," Ben Norton and Ajit Singh wrote on The Grayzone in an Aug. 23 report titled "No, the U.N. did not report China has 'massive internment camps' for Uighur Muslims."

A follow-up report by Ajit Singh and Max Blumenthal on Dec. 21 is titled "China detaining millions of Uyghurs? Serious problems with claims by U.S.-backed NGO and far-right researcher 'led by God' against Beijing." The subheading says: "Claims that China has detained millions of Uyghur Muslims are based largely on two studies. A closer look at these papers reveals U.S. government backing, absurdly shoddy methodologies, and a rapture-ready evangelical researcher named Adrian Zenz."

The report continues: "The claim that China has detained millions of ethnic Uyghurs in its Xinjiang region is repeated with increasing frequency, but little scrutiny is ever applied. Yet a closer look at the figure and how it was obtained reveals a serious deficiency in data."

"While this extraordinary claim is treated as unassailable in the West, it is, in fact, based on two highly dubious 'studies.'

"The first, by the U.S. government-backed Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders, formed its estimate by interviewing a grand total of eight people.

"The second study relied on flimsy media reports and speculation. It was authored by Adrian Zenz, a far-right fundamentalist Christian who opposes homosexuality and gender equality, supports 'scriptural spanking' of children, and believes he is 'led by God' on a 'mission' against China.

"As Washington ratchets up pressure on China, Zenz has been lifted out of obscurity and transformed almost overnight into a go-to pundit on Xinjiang. He has testified before Congress, providing commentary in outlets from the Wall Street Journal to Democracy Now!, and delivering expert quotes in the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists' recent 'China Cables' report."

Zenz, a German theologian, is a senior fellow for China studies at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation think tank, which is backed by the CIA.

All this comes at a time when the U.S. is openly and brazenly building up its military forces aimed at China. A recent Reuters headline declared: "Pentagon to cut troops in Africa as focus shifts to China, Russia."

The report, which, of course, is read in China and Russia as well as the U.S., says, "Earlier this year, the U.S. military put countering China and Russia at the center of a new national defense strategy. ... A congressionally mandated report by former U.S. officials released earlier this week said that the military did not have sufficient resources to fund the military's needs and goals."

An openly military war has not yet begun, but the war preparations have. Make sure you don't get caught up in the tangle of war propaganda. There is nothing being done in or by China that can in any way justify any type of intervention. It's just imperialist propaganda that says otherwise.



PHOTO: BRAD SIGAL

PHOTO: WI BAIL OUT THE PEOPLE MOVEMENT

PHOTO: NEW ORLEANS WORKERS GROUP

Protests demand: STOP WAR ON IRAN!

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the fires that we set in Iraq inflamed the entire Middle East."

Activists erupted in chants of "Never again!"

More than fifty people participated in an anti-war protest in Norfolk, Va., reported jubilant activist John Long. "We caught the cops by surprise and took Granby Street!"

Up to 1,000 marched on the Trump Towers in Chicago, while even larger numbers—perhaps up to 2,000—

took to the streets of San Francisco and Washington, D.C., where they rallied outside the White House.

One hundred people came out to march and rally in New Orleans. "We in the New Orleans Workers Group called the demonstration in solidarity with Iranians, Iraqis and others attacked by U.S. imperialism," Gregory Williamson told SLL. "I was impressed by the broad agreement that imperialist war is bad for the people of the world, including workers here."

The crowd was made up of many races, nationalities and age groups." The Peoples Defense League of South Louisiana and the Democratic Socialists of America were among the groups that came out.

At the rally, Gavrielle Gemma, a leader of the national movement against the first Gulf War in 1990-1991, said, "We cannot stop imperialist war unless we organize the workers to be against it. We cannot be afraid to say that we are for the workers, that it is the bosses who are for war, and this is a rich white

man's war that doesn't benefit the workers of any nationality."

From New Haven, Conn.—where Norm Clement denounced the assassination of Soleimani as "an act of war and a war crime"—to Sasser Park in Southern California's Orange County, and everywhere inbetween, a new movement is taking shape for the hard fight to stop Trump's war against Iran — and shut down U.S. imperialism everywhere!

Jefferson Azevedo, David Card, Cheryl LaBash and Carl Muhammad contributed to this report.

Australia's fires fueled by capitalist exploitation

By Scott Scheffer

There just is no way to describe what is happening in Australia. The fifteen million acres that are engulfed in flames are an area bigger than Switzerland. Even in Sydney, the capital city, air quality has been from 10 to 17 times the level considered hazardous and the skies are intermittently blood red from the glow of nearby fires, and black with dangerous smoke.

Firefighters up and down the eastern coast of this driest continent on Earth report walls of fire 100 meters tall. "Fire tornadoes" have flipped over fire trucks. Persistently rotating updrafts caused by the heat that precedes the arrival of actual flames have caused supercell storms, the most severe category of thunderstorms.

Dozens of people have died and somewhere between 500 million and 1 billion animals may have perished. Many smaller species will vanish completely. Thousands have evacuated. At one point, four thousand people in Victoria made their way to the relative safety of beaches with fire closing in on them, waiting for rescue.

The perilous situation has hit many First Nation communities even harder because of government neglect. In many cases, only their own efforts have saved lives and homes.

The village of Lake Tyers, in Eastern Victoria, has only a small water



© Australian Women's Weekly
Charmaine Sellings right with Rhonda Thorpe. Sellings leads an all-Indigenous women's firefighting brigade.

tank on a pickup truck. The isolated peninsula is home to 200 residents and has one access road. An all-Indigenous women's firefighting brigade whose members are part of the council of their self-governing community are the firefighting team.

Charmaine Sellings leads the brigade and in an interview with the organization Now to Love said: "Just one crack of lightning on a stormy day could be disastrous. ... We are in extreme conditions. Our dams are empty and it's not a good situation. The crew will work around the clock. We hope for a quiet summer, but we fear the worst."

The Guardian reports that in Uladulla on the south coast the fires had burned all the way to the sand by early December. Just a few miles north of there is a protected area called Murramarang — the site of archaeological finds that hold "the stories of 12,000 years of Yuin occupation in layers of stone tools, spear points, fish bones and oyster shells," according to an essay published in the Guardian by Lorena Allam, an Indigenous writer. No one knows yet how much of these treasured artifacts will have survived.

The administration of Prime Minister Scott Morrison is packed with

energy industry-friendly, climate deniers — it's been reported that over \$29 billion annually is handed over to fossil fuel companies. Australia is the 4th largest coal producer in the world and the owners of coal and other sectors of the energy industry have government officials in their back pocket. Billionaire Rupert Murdoch's major newspaper, "The Australian," is doing its part by constantly assigning the blame for the fires to arsonists.

Australia is a junior partner of the U.S. and Western European imperialist countries with a large modern military. In 2018, it became the second largest purchaser of military equipment in the world behind Saudi Arabia. But in the early weeks of the crisis, as fires ripped through the country, the military was idle. Only after weeks of raging fire and at least a month left of the fire season — as intense criticism mounted — did Morrison finally call out naval ships to carry out evacuations from southeast coastal villages.

Still the crisis is far from over. When the fires are extinguished and the smoke has cleared in Australia, the billionaire owners of the mines that deplete precious water resources, the agribusiness that burns forests to make way for profitable crops, the right-wing media that downplay climate change, and the bought-and-paid-for politicians will face a reckoning. ■

After British election, urgent need for fight against racism

By Scott Scheffer

The Dec. 12 British election was a contest between the reactionary, arch-racist Boris Johnson of the Conservative (Tory) Party and Jeremy Corbyn, who is representative of the most progressive wing of the British Labour Party.

Johnson hung his electoral hat on the racist anti-immigrant campaign that provided the wind in the sails for Brexit — the push to separate Britain from the European Union.

Corbyn, the leader of the Labour Party, is a longtime target of reactionary attacks by the British media and Tory politicians. During the runup to the election, the campaign against him reached a new level with the entirety of the British corporate press joining in. Charges of anti-Semitism, because of his long-time support for the Palestinian struggle, were central.

Corbyn's Labour Party still won nearly 33 percent — more than 10 million votes — compared to 43 percent for Johnson. In addition, many workers in Northern Ireland and Scotland voted for parties that have historically struggled for independence from British imperialism.

Over the years, Corbyn has taken some courageous positions: opposing the imperialist war against Syria, calling for denuclearization of the British military, calling for a minimum 50 percent tax on the richest 1 percent, national rent control

legislation, scrapping tuition fees, strengthening collective bargaining and a national living wage bill.

Almost all of these proposals enjoyed majority or close to majority support, according to various polls of voters.

Even though more than 10 million people voted for Corbyn in the face of a storm of reactionary attacks, he is being singled out for criticism for the electoral loss. The nature of the criticisms varies, but few — if any — have raised the most important question in the aftermath of the election: whether a full-court press against the racism of Boris Johnson and all-out solidarity with Arab, Asian and African immigrants and other migrant workers in Britain could have strengthened the electoral chances of Labour.

It may have, and more importantly, even if such a solidarity-building campaign did not win out over the barrage of right-wing propaganda against Corbyn in this election, it could have strengthened the entire British working class in preparation for struggles that are sure to come in the future.

Needed: solidarity against anti-immigrant racism

The 1993 consolidation of the European Union included in its constitution a lessening of the restrictions on cross-border movement between member countries.

In recent years, large numbers

of migrant workers have moved to Britain from Eastern Europe where socialism's overthrow has worsened working conditions and lowered wages. The migration to England has been prompted by the hopes for a better chance of finding work.

As endless imperialist wars and economic sanctions have caused devastation, joblessness and hunger, hundreds of thousands of working-class people in Latin America, the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe have fled their ravaged homelands at great peril, to try to find survival in the U.S. and Western Europe.

Boris Johnson gained support by railing against the lighter immigration restrictions of the European Union and by spewing racist hate. His tirades gained him the support of the section of the British ruling class pushing for Brexit and won him the leadership of the Tories, and then the majority of seats in Parliament on Dec. 12.

Johnson is a notorious racist, considered by many to be the second coming of Enoch Powell, a Tory MP whose infamous, fascist "Rivers of Blood" speech in 1968 spurred outrage, but also set the stage for tightening immigration laws in England. Johnson has made a political career out of a revival of Powell's white nationalist anti-immigrant racism.

Brexit and capitalist crisis

The despicable use of racism by right-wing politicians like Boris

Johnson is meant to distract from the real motivation of the pro-Brexit section of the British ruling class — the capitalist crisis.

The increase in efficiency of the productive forces, the globalization of production combined with vast improvements in the technology used to produce goods and services, has meant that fewer and fewer workers produce more and more. With fewer workers needed, the demand for labor lessens, and wages go down.

With fewer people able to buy the goods and services that they themselves have produced, it becomes more difficult for the billionaire corporate owners to sell at a profit, and the competition for markets between the capitalist countries heightens.

The last several decades have seen an intensification of this process because of the boom in globalized high-tech, and it has led to a period of constant struggle and shifting alliances to try to gain a competitive edge. Britain's "Brexiters" are hoping that a stronger economic alliance with the U.S. — the dominant imperialist power — will give them an edge against other European powers, Germany first and foremost.

The repugnant scapegoating of migrants and people of color is meant to conceal the capitalist crisis. A working-class struggle against racism is what is needed to uncover the truth and point the way forward. ■

¡No más sanciones!

ALTO a la guerra de EUA contra Irán

NO sanctions

STOP U.S. WAR ON IRAN

¡Alto a la guerra contra Irán! ¡Regresen todas las tropas ya!

El régimen de Trump lanzó un ataque furtivo y cobarde contra dos países con los que Estados Unidos no está en guerra. Los asesinatos del general iraní Qassem Soleimani y el iraquí Abu Mahdi Mohandas están calculados para desatar más guerra y destrucción en toda la región. Siguen al asesinato de 25 soldados iraquíes por la Fuerza Aérea de los EUA cuatro días antes.

Estos asesinatos son crímenes contra la paz, el mayor crimen de guerra según el derecho internacional. Son una versión global de Cointelpro, el programa secreto del gobierno de EUA que asesinó a decenas de líderes negrxs, latinxs e indígenas en las décadas de 1960 y 1970.

Nuevos informes dicen que los marines estadounidenses están “arrestando” (traducción: secuestrando) legisladores iraquíes elegidos. El régimen colonizador racista de Israel está colaborando con la Casa Blanca y el Pentágono para intensificar esta guerra.

Soleimani lideró la lucha contra ISIS

“El acto estadounidense de terrorismo internacional, atacando y asesinando al general Soleimani, quien dirigió la fuerza más efectiva que lucha contra Daesh (ISIS), al-Nusrah, al-Qaida y otros, es una escalada extremadamente peligrosa e insensata”, dijo el canciller iraní Irán Javad Zarif en Twitter. “Estados Unidos será el responsable por todas las consecuencias de su aventura canallesca”.

En juego enormes ganancias e inversiones

¿Quién podría querer tal cosa? Los intereses energéticos que dominan la Casa Blanca de Trump, y los bancos que los financian. La carrera política del secretario de estado Mike Pompeo fue pagada por Koch Industries, un gran beneficiario del fracking. La industria energética ha llegado a depender de la guerra en el oeste de Asia y el norte de África, ricos en petróleo. Ahora están en crisis, como lo atestiguan los titulares en The Wall Street Journal (WSJ):

“Los productores de energía se enfrentan a una gran pérdida después de la bonanza del petróleo de esquisto”, escribió el WSJ el 1 de enero.

“La factura se debe a la guerra de precios de la industria del esquisto con la OPEP, y las compañías de petróleo y gas de América del Norte tendrán más de \$200 mil millones de deuda con vencimiento en los próximos cuatro años”, comienza el siguiente artículo.

“Los precios del petróleo caerán a pesar de los recortes de la OPEP, predicen los bancos”, escribió el WSJ el 23 de diciembre.

“Los gigantes de la energía confrontan el exceso con oleadas de desvalorizaciones”, informó un titular del 20 de diciembre de WSJ.

En un artículo del 15 de diciembre titulado, “La desaceleración del esquisto tiene costo económico”, el WSJ citó al economista del Banco de la Reserva Federal Michael Plante: “El momento de auge terminó, a menos que los precios del petróleo suban significativamente”.

“Los fabricantes se enfrentan a una nueva amenaza por la caída del fracking”, decía un titular del 15 de diciembre.

Sin embargo, el WSJ del 26 de diciembre informaba “los grandes inversores muestran amor por los campos de gas que otros evitan”. Entre los que compran campos no rentables está el aliado de Trump y propietario de los Dallas Cowboys, Jerry Jones. Más importante aún, ExxonMobil y Chevron anuncianon importantes inversiones en la Cuenca Pérmica a principios de este año, a pesar de la caída de los precios. “La próxima era de perforación de esquisto es probable que sea liderada por las principales compañías petroleras”, comentó el WSJ.

El exceso de energía mundial también pone en peligro las ganancias que los bancos estadounidenses esperan obtener de la oferta pública de Saudi ARAMCO, la compañía petrolera más grande del mundo, y los planes estadounidense-israelíes para comercializar en Europa el gas robado de los palestinos. Miles de millones de dólares en ganancias e inversiones están en juego.

Las guerras de EUA contra Irak, Libia y Siria trajeron enormes ganancias a las empresas estadounidenses, especialmente a las de energía. Hicieron posible el auge del fracking, en el que los principales bancos y corporaciones vertieron cientos de miles de millones de dólares. Pero era una burbuja, y esa burbuja ha colapsado. El régimen de Trump está apostando a que una guerra importante pueda traerlo de vuelta.

Guerra contra Irán es guerra contra la clase trabajadora aquí

La guerra con Irán puede enriquecer aún más a los banqueros y multimillonarios, pero solo traerá un desastre a las comunidades oprimidas y de clase trabajadora aquí. El Dr. Martin Luther King dijo: “Las bombas que caen en Vietnam explotan aquí”. Lo mismo se aplica a las bombas y misiles que Estados Unidos arroja sobre Asia occidental y el norte de África.

El presupuesto militar de \$758 mil millones viene a expensas de nuestros cupones de alimentos, nuestras escuelas, hospitales, viviendas, bibliotecas y sistemas de tránsito. ¿Por qué no podemos tener atención médica y universidad gratuitas como tantos otros países? ¿Dónde está el dinero para proporcionar agua potable a Flint, Newark y otras ciudades de EUA? ¿Dónde está el dinero para reparar los daños causados por huracanes en Puerto Rico?

También pagaremos el costo de esta guerra en el puesto de gasolina y en el costo del combustible para calefacción este invierno.

La guerra también está destinada a salvar y fortalecer la industria del fracking, que está envenenando a las comunidades nativas y rurales en los EUA además de causar cáncer. También es una fuente importante de metano que afecta el clima.

Medios monopolistas convergen en torno a la guerra

Los medios corporativos han criticado a Trump por perjudicar la intervención estadounidense en Ucrania. Pero se regodean con los asesinatos selectivos completamente ilegales del régimen de Trump.

Algunos políticos demócratas han criticado insidiosamente esta peligrosa escalada. A Nancy Pelosi le preocupa que Trump no lo haya pasado por el Congreso. ¿Pero actuarán ahora para detener esta guerra? ¿Acusarán a Trump por crímenes contra la paz y violar la Ley de Poderes de Guerra? ¿Sacarán ahora todas las tropas, barcos, aviones y activos militares estadounidenses de la región?

El pueblo debe intervenir

No podemos confiar en los políticos burgueses. ¡Necesitamos una acción de masas urgente en las calles y en los lugares de trabajo para detener esta guerra!

¡Manos fuera de Irán! ¡Estados Unidos fuera de Asia occidental y el norte de África! ¡No más guerras por ganancias del monopolio petrolero! ¡Todas las tropas, barcos y aviones estadounidenses a casa ahora! ¡Alto a las sanciones ya! ¡Alto a toda ayuda al estado racista de Israel! ¡Dinero para escuelas, salud y viviendas, no para el Pentágono y la CIA! 

Stop the war against Iran! Bring all the troops home now!

The Trump regime has launched a cowardly sneak attack on two countries with which the U.S. is not at war. The murders of Iran's Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Iraq's Abu Mahdi Mohandas are calculated to unleash more war and destruction across the entire region. It follows the murder of 25 Iraqi soldiers by the U.S. Air Force four days earlier.

These murders are crimes against peace, the highest war crime under international law. They are a global version of Cointelpro, the U.S. government secret program which murdered dozens of Black, Latinx and Indigenous leaders in the 1960s and 1970s.

New reports say U.S. Marines are “arresting” (translation: kidnapping) elected Iraqi legislators.

Soleimani led fight against ISIS

“The U.S. act of international terrorism, targeting and assassinating Gen. Soleimani—who led the most effective force fighting Daesh (ISIS), al-Nusrah, al-Qaida, et al.—is extremely dangerous and a foolish escalation,” said Iran’s Foreign Minister Javad Zarif on Twitter. “The U.S. bears responsibility for all consequences of its rogue adventurism.”

Huge profits and investments at stake

Who could want such a thing? The energy interests that dominate the Trump White House, and the banks that fund them want it most of all. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s political career was paid for by Koch Industries, a major fracking profiteer. Big Energy has come to depend on war in oil-rich West Asia and North Africa. Now they are in a crisis, as headlines in The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) attest:

“Energy Producers Face Big Tab After Shale Oil Bonanza,” the WSJ wrote on Jan. 1.

“The bill is coming due for the shale industry’s price war with OPEC, with North American oil-and-gas companies having more than \$200 billion of debt maturing over the next four years,” begins the article that follows.

“Oil Prices to Slide Despite OPEC Cuts, Banks Predict,” the WSJ wrote on Dec. 23.

“Energy Giants Confront Glut With Wave of Write-Downs,” reported a Dec. 20 WSJ headline.

In a Dec. 15 article headlined, “Shale Slowdown Takes Economic Toll,” the WSJ quoted Federal Reserve Bank economist Michael Plante: “The boom time is done at this point, unless oil prices go up significantly.”

“Manufacturers Face New Threat From Fracking Slump,” read a Dec. 15 headline.

Nonetheless, “Big Investors Showing Love to Gas Fields Others Shun,” the WSJ reported on Dec. 26. Among those buying up unprofitable fields is Trump ally and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. More important, ExxonMobil and Chevron announced major investments in the Permian Basin earlier this year, despite falling prices. “The next era of shale drilling is likely to be led by the major oil companies,” the WSJ commented.

The global energy glut also imperils the profits that U.S. banks hope to make off the

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